

Application No.: 10/696950

Case No.: 59350US002

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims Status

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1-11 are amended. No new claims are added.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-11 were objected to with a request for clarification. Claims 1-11 are all amended to use clearer phraseology. No new matter is added.

Withdrawal of the objections are requested.

§ 102 Rejection

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartlett.

As noted in the application at page 1 in the first paragraph of the Background discussion, Bartlett discloses certain fluorinated polyether compounds and their use as surfactants. The compositions disclosed in the reference are pure compounds.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to mixtures of fluoropolyether materials and their use as surfactants. Among other features, mixtures of the invention have low content of smaller molecular weight fractions, i.e., "the amount of perfluorinated polyether groups in said mixture where k is 2 or less, is not more than 10% by weight of the total amount of perfluorinated polyether groups in said mixture". Bartlett does not disclose such compositions having the requisite molecular weight of between 750 and 5000 g/mol and the low proportion of material where k is 2 or less.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartlett has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Application No.: 10/696950

Case No.: 59350US002

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and discussion above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-11, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Oct 17, 2005
Date

By: Robert H. Jordan
Robert H. Jordan, Reg. No.: 31,973
Telephone No. 651-733-6866

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833